

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 02004 031317Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
ARA-10 MCT-01 HA-05 IO-13 /093 W  
-----007203 031653Z /43  
R 031120Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7260

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2004

DEPARTMENT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MOPS, SU  
SUBJECT: CUBAN COMBAT TROOPS IN ERITREA

1. DURING CONVERSATION ON OTHER MATTERS SUDAN ARMED FORCES  
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF MAJOR GENERAL ABDEL MAJID HAMID KHALIL  
TOLD DCM MAY 3 THAT SUDANESE MILATT IN ADDIS ABABA REPORTS  
PRESENCE OF CUBAN MECHANIZED UNITS IN ETHIOPIAN COLUMNS  
WHICH HAVE BEEN ORGANIZED IN PREPARATION OF ANTICIPATED  
ATTACK AGAINST ERITREA. GENERAL MAJID SAID HE "100 PER-  
CENT SURE" ABOUT PRESENCE CUBANS AMONG ETHIOPIAN FORCES THAT  
WILL BE USED IN ERITREAN CAMPAIGN. DESPITE CASTRO'S UNWIL-  
LINGNESS TO ADMIT IT PUBLICLY, GENERAL MAJID IS CONVINCED  
CUBANS HAVE TAKEN POLICY DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN ETHIOPIAN  
OFFENSIVE AGAINST ERITREA.

2. AMERICAN JOURNALIST WHO HAS JUST VISITED ERITREA TOLD  
EMBOFF THAT THERE RELATIVELY LITTLE MILITARY ACTIVITY UNDER-  
WAY PRESENTLY AS ERITREANS WAIT FOR ANTICIPATED ATTACK.  
JOURNALIST CONFIRMED INFO PROVIDED EARLIER BY SUDANESE  
OFFICIALS THAT ETHIOPIAN ROCKET ATTACKS OCCURRED WEEK  
OR SO AGO IN ERITREA NEAR SUDAN BORDER.

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3. COMMENT: AS REPORTED BY EMBASSY NIMEIRI SEEMS TO  
HAVE FOUND SOME GLIMMER OF HOPE THAT CUBANS MAY RESTRAIN  
THEMSELVES IN ERITREA AS RESULT CASTRO'S SPEECH LAST  
WEEK. ON BALANCE HOWEVER SUDANESE REMAIN VIRTUALLY  
CERTAIN THAT CUBANS WILL PARTICIPATE IN ERITREAN CAMPAIGN  
AND THEY THEREFORE REMAIN QUITE CONCERNED OVER OUT-  
COME OF EXPECTED ETHIOPIAN ATTACK.

BERGUS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED AFRICA COLLECTIVE.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMED FORCES, ALLEGATIONS, MILITARY PLANS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978KHARTO02004  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** MOPS, PBOR, SU, CU, ET  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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